



**DMCJA Board of Governors Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 11, 2019, 11:10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**AOC SeaTac Office**  
**SeaTac, WA**

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Members Present:**

Chair, Judge Rebecca Robertson  
Judge Scott Ahlf  
Judge Linda Coburn  
Judge Jennifer Fassbender  
Judge Michelle Gehlsen  
Judge Robert Grim  
Judge Drew Ann Henke  
Judge Aimee Maurer  
Judge Samuel Meyer  
Judge Charles Short  
Judge Jeffrey Smith  
Judge Laura Van Slyck

### **Guests:**

Dory Nicpon, AOC  
Judge Kevin Ringus, BJA  
Judge Mary Logan, BJA

### **AOC Staff:**

Sharon R. Harvey

### **Members Absent:**

Judge Michael Finkle  
Commissioner Rick Leo

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Robertson, District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) President, noted a quorum was present and called the DMCJA Board of Governors (Board) meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Judge Robertson asked attendees to introduce themselves.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **A. Minutes**

The Board moved, seconded, and passed a vote (M/S/P) to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2019.

### **B. Treasurer's Report**

M/S/P to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was noted that during the Board Retreat on May 10, 2019, Judge Fassbender reported that a high percentage of members have paid their annual dues and the April Treasurer's Report is located in meeting materials.

### **C. Special Fund Report**

M/S/P to accept the Special Fund Report. It was noted that Judge Gehlsen reported that the Special Fund earned interest in the amount of fifty-three dollars and seventy-three cents (\$53.73) during the Board Retreat on May 10, 2019.

### **D. Standing Committee Reports**

#### *1. Legislative Committee*

Judge Meyer reported that this is his last year as the DMCJA Legislative Committee Chair. Commissioner Paul Wohl, Thurston County District Court, will assume the position for 2019-2020. Judge Meyer then directed Board members to review a Legislative Summary that was prepared by Melanie Stewart, DMCJA Lobbyist.

The DMCJA proposed five bills this legislative session. The following DMCJA proposed bills passed the Legislature and were signed by Governor Jay Inslee:

- 2SHB 1048, Modifying the process for prevailing parties to recover judgments in small claims court
- ESHB 1350, Issuing temporary protection orders
- SB 5622, Revising the authority of commissioners of courts of limited jurisdiction

E. Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Report

Ms. Cullinane was unable to attend the meeting, therefore, there was no JIS Report.

## LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administrative Office of the Courts AOC

Dawn Marie Rubio, State Court Administrator, was unable to attend this meeting but will attend the June Board meeting. Thus, there was no official AOC report.

B. Board for Judicial Administration (BJA)

Judge Ringus, BJA Legislative Committee Chair, reported that the 2019 Legislative Session adjourned sine die on April 28, 2019. Judge Logan reported that the general consensus among BJA members is one of happiness with the budget. Dory Nicpon, AOC Associate Director of Judicial and Legislative Relations, provided an overview of the Session at the request of Judge Ringus. Ms. Nicpon reported that the Legislature passed 486 of 2,988 proposed bills. She informed that the themes of the Session were as follows: (1) Vulnerable Adults – bills related to Guardianship, (2) Mental Health – bills related to *Trueblood v. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services*, 822 F.3d 1037 (2016), and (3) Sexual Assault – bills related to the collection of DNA samples from sexual assault offenders. Court technology projects are a top BJA priority, thus, the Judiciary requested funding, which the Legislature provided.

Ms. Nicpon added that the DMCJA was not only highly successful with getting its bills passed, but also well regarded by state legislators. She reported that the following proposed BJA bills passed the Legislature: (1) E2SHB 1517, Concerning domestic violence, and (2) ESHB 1329, Concerning the methods of services provided by the office of public guardianship. A proposed definition change related to domestic violence by the Gender and Justice Commission was added to E2SHB 1517. Ms. Nicpon further reported that SSB 5560, Concerning **mediation** of disputes between elected officials, which was supported by the Superior Court Judges' Association, passed the Legislature. She further mentioned other bills of interest introduced this Session, namely, (a) HB 1788, Concerning the Washington state bar association, (b) SSB 5017, Concerning the uniform unsworn declarations act, (c) 2SSB 5604, Concerning the uniform guardianship, conservatorship, and other protective arrangements act. HB 1788 did not pass the Legislature. For more information regarding BJA meeting information, please visit the following web link:

[http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs/orgs/pos\\_bja/?fa=pos\\_bja.meetings](http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs/orgs/pos_bja/?fa=pos_bja.meetings).

C. District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)

Ms. Yetter was unable to attend this meeting, thus, there was no DMCMA report.

D. Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

Ms. Scarpaci was unable to attend this meeting, therefore, there was no DMCMA report.

E. Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ)

Ms. Hamar was unable to attend this meeting, therefore, there was no WSAJ report

F. Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)

Ms. Hunter was unable to attend this meeting, therefore, there was no WSBA report.

## **ACTION**

### A. Adopt 2019-2020 DMCJA Budget

M/S/P to adopt the 2019-2020 DMCJA Budget discussed during the Board Retreat. The Board decided by general consensus to allow the budget to remain the same as 2018-2019, with the exception of the following:

- Lobbyist Contract - \$75,000 (increased by five thousand dollars, from \$70,000 to \$75,000)
- DMCMA Mandatory Education [allotted twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) toward mandatory education for court administrators for 2019-2020]

### B. Adopt the Priorities

M/S/P to adopt the following goals and priorities:

1. Adequate Court Funding
  - a. JIS/Case Management
  - b. Courthouse Security
  - c. Access to Justice (Court Education, Interpreters, and Technology)
2. Preserving the Independence, Integrity, Quality, and Consistency of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction
3. Educate Justice Partners
  - a. Public Outreach Committee
  - b. Collection of Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs)
  - c. Statewide Relicensing Program
4. Foster Development of Therapeutic Courts (Community Courts, Mental Health Courts, Veterans Courts, Drug Courts, etc.)

The following are additional DMCJA goals that are equal in priority:

- Member Involvement
- Foster a Better Relationship with Superior Court

### C. Adopt Meeting Schedule

M/S/P to adopt the following 2019-2020 DMCJA Meeting Schedule:

July 12, 2019	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
August 9, 2019	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
September 22, 2019	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Fall Conference, Vancouver, WA
October 11, 2019	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
November 8, 2019	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
December 13, 2019	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
January 10, 2019	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
February 7, 2019	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
March 13, 2020	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
April 10, 2020	12:30 to 3:30	AOC SeaTac Office Center
May 8-9, 2020	12:00 to 5:00	TBD
June 2020 (TBD)	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	TBD

- D. M/S/P to approve the DMCJA Diversity Committee's Pro Tem Survey. Thus, the Diversity Committee may send this survey to the DMJCA listserv.

## DISCUSSION

### A. DMCJA Diversity Committee Pro Tem Survey – Request for DMCJA Approval

Judge Coburn reported that the Diversity Committee has promulgated survey questions regarding its biennial pro tempore training. The survey is intended to discover how district and municipal court judges select pro tempore candidates to serve on the bench. The Board approved the survey by general consensus.

### B. Request for Funding: CLJ Court Administrator Education

The Board discussed the District and Municipal Court Management Association's request for twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to fund mandatory court administrator education. The estimated budget is as follows:

Lodging Estimate (2 nights per person @ \$150/night)	\$12,000
Meals (\$25B/\$35L/\$50D @ 2 days)	\$ 8,000
Faculty (8 total; 1 night hotel, 1 day per diem, \$100 mileage = \$320 each)	\$ 2,560
Miscellaneous (printing, av costs, etc.)	\$ 4,640
Total Estimated Expenses	\$28,000
Suggested Incidental Fee (\$200 per person)	<u>\$ 8,000</u>
Total Requested Budget	\$20,000

The Board discussed adding a new line item for DMCMA Mandatory Education and allotting \$20,000 for this purpose during its Board Retreat. The proposed 2019-2020 DMCJA budget was approved, thus, the Board approved this request by general consensus.

## INFORMATION

Judge Robertson brought the following informational items to the Board's attention:

### A. 2019-2020 DMCJA Slate of Candidates (Updated May 1, 2019)

Judge Robertson reported that Judge Tam Bui, Snohomish County District Court, agreed to run for the BJA Open Position #1 in order to satisfy the DMCJA Bylaws requirement that at least two DMCJA members are placed on the ballot for a BJA Representative position.

- B. Board members are encouraged to apply for DMCJA representative positions. Available positions include:

- Presiding Judge & Administrator Education Committee

- C. Welcome Judge Laura Van Slyck, Everett Municipal Court, to your new role as DMCJA Board Member. Judge Van Slyck replaces Judge Damon Shadid, Seattle Municipal Court, who resigned from his Board position in March 2019.

Judge Van Slyck expressed her gratitude for being appointed to the DMCJA Board. Board members welcomed her to the new position.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. The next DMCJA Board Meeting is June 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.